

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 3-11, 13 and 14 and CANCEL claim 2 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client administration method of administering a group of clients, each client providing presence information, the method comprising:

~~a-presence-storing-step-of-accepting~~ a setting of presence information of the clients including a first client, and storing the presence information on a client by client basis;

~~a-notification-recipient-storing-step-of-storing~~ a watcher list for each of clients in the clients group, the watcher list correlating at least one identifiers-identifier of a watcher clients client with an identifier of a client owning the watcher listfor respective clients, each of the watcher clients ~~client~~ being provided with the presence information of a client ~~at least one of the clients in the clients group~~owning the watcher list;

~~an-identifier-changing-step-of-accepting~~ a change of an identifier of the first client;

~~a-decision-step-of-deciding~~ at least one ~~all of~~ watcher clients of the first client to be one or more identifier notification recipients according to the change of the identifier of the first client;

replacing, in a watcher list of the first client, an old identifier of the first client with a new identifier, and replacing identifiers of all watcher clients with at least one identifier of the decided identifier notification recipients, and

~~an-identifier-transmitting-step-of-transmitting~~ a new identifier of the first client to one or more identifier notification recipients ~~decided-identified~~ in said ~~decision-step~~ deciding, and

~~a-notification-recipient-updating-step-of-accepting~~ ~~a request for a change notification of presence information of the new identifier of the first client from the identifier notification recipient, correlating the new identifier of the first client and the identifier of the identifier notification recipient and storing the same.~~

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The client administration method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

~~a subscriber client storing step of~~ storing identifiers of subscriber clients so that each subscriber client is associated with at least one client that provides the presence information thereto, the subscriber client being provided with the presence information of at least one client of the clients group; and

~~said decision step~~ deciding a client to be an identifier notification recipient, the client being both a watcher client of the first client and a subscriber client of the first client.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The client administration method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

~~a presence notifying step of~~ notifying the first client's watcher client of new presence information according to the setting of the presence information;

~~a notification history storing step of~~ storing a notification history of the presence information; and

~~said decision step~~deciding including extracting at least one of a plurality of watcher clients of the first client based on the notification history, and deciding to be one or more identifier notification recipients.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The client administration method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

~~a messaging step of~~ administering distribution of text messages exchanged between the clients;

~~a distribution history step of~~ storing a distribution history of distributed text messages; and

~~said decision step~~deciding including extracting at least one of a plurality of watcher clients of the first client based on the distribution history, and deciding to be one or more identifier notification recipients.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The client monitor method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

~~said presence storing step~~ storing of the presence information of the clients so that includes associating the presence information is associated with an access level, the access level limiting notification recipients of the presence information of the clients;

~~said-notification-recipient-storing-step-further-storing~~ the access level of each watcher client is stored; and

~~said-decision-step-deciding-a~~ portion of a plurality of watcher clients of the first client is determined to be the identifier notification recipients based on the access level of each watcher client.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The client administration method as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~said-identifier-transmitting-step-further~~comprising:

transmitting display data for displaying the change of the identifier of the first client to one or more identifier notification recipients.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The client administration method as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~said-identifier-transmitting-step-further~~comprising:

transmitting attribute information related to the change of the identifier of the first client to one or more identifier notification recipients.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The client administration method as set forth in claim 8, wherein ~~said-identifier-changing-step~~comprising:

accepting registration of the attribute information.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client administration device that administers a group of clients, each client providing presence information, the device comprising:

a presence-storing unit accepting a setting of presence information of the clients including a first client, and storing the presence information on a client by client basis;

a notification recipient-storing unit storing a watcher list for each of clients in the clients group, the watcher list correlating at least one identifiers-identifier of a watcher clients-client with an identifier of a client owning the watcher list~~for respective clients, each of the-watcher clients client being provided with the presence information of a client-at least one of the clients in the clients-group owning the watcher list;~~

an identifier-changing unit accepting a change of the identifier of the first client;

a decision unit deciding all-at least one of watcher clients of the first client to be one or more identifier notification recipients according to the change of the identifier of the first client; and

where an old identifier of the first client is replaced with a new identifier in a watcher list of the first client, and identifiers of all watcher clients are replaced with at least one identifier of the decided identifier notification recipients, and

a new identifier of the first client is transmitted to one or more identifier notification recipients identified by said decision unit

an identifier-transmitting unit transmitting a new identifier of the first client to one or more identifier notification recipients decided by said decision unit, and

a notification recipient updating unit accepting a request for a change notification of presence information of the new identifier of the first client from the identifier notification recipient, correlating the new identifier of the first client and the identifier of the of the identifier notification recipient and storing the same.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium storing a client administration program for administering a group of clients, each client providing presence information, the program controlling a computer system, when executed, to perform a method comprising:

accepting a setting of presence information of the clients including a first client, and storing the presence information on a client by client basis;

storing a watcher list for each of clients in the clients group, the watcher list correlating at least one identifiers-identifier of a watcher clients-client with an identifier of a client owning the watcher list for respective clients, each of the watcher clients-client being provided with the presence information of a client-at least one of the clients in the clients group owning the watcher list;

accepting a change of the identifier of the first client;

deciding all-at least one of watcher clients of the first client to be one or more identifier notification recipients according to the change of the identifier of the first client;

replacing, in a watcher list of the first client, an old identifier of the first client with a new identifier, and replacing identifiers of all watcher clients with at least one identifier of the decided identifier notification recipients, and

transmitting a new identifier of the first client to one or more identifier notification recipients decided-identified in said decision-step deciding, and

~~accepting a request for a change notification of presence information of the new identifier of the first client from the identifier notification recipient, correlating the new identifier of the first client and the identifier of the identifier notification recipient and storing the same.~~

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A client administration method of administering a group of clients, each client providing presence information, the method comprising:

accepting a setting of presence information of the clients including a first client, and storing the presence information on a client by client basis;

storing client-relationship information and a watcher list for each of clients in the clients group, the watcher list correlating for respective clients, the client-relationship information containing at least one identifiers-identifier of one or more clients a watcher client with an identifier of a client owning the watcher list relating to provision of presence information of the first client thereto and one or more identifiers of one or more clients relating to a request made by the first client, the request being for provision of presence information of those clients to the first client, each watcher client being provided with the presence information of a client owning the watcher list;

accepting a change of an identifier of the first client;

deciding ~~one or more~~ at least one of watcher clients of the first client to be one or more identifier notification recipients according to the change of the identifier of the first client, ~~one or more identifiers of one or more clients being contained in the client-relationship information stored in association with the first client~~;

replacing, in a watcher list of the first client, an old identifier of the first client with a new identifier, and replacing identifiers of all watcher clients with at least one identifier of the decided identifier notification recipients, and

transmitting a new identifier of the first client to one or more identifier notification recipients ~~decided-identified in said decision step~~ deciding, and

~~accepting a request for a change notification of presence information of the new identifier of the first client from the identifier notification recipient, correlating the new identifier of the first client and the identifier of the identifier notification recipient and storing the same.~~

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An instant messaging administration method, comprising;

storing a list of user identifiers used by a client, presence information of the client and for each of the user identifiers, a list of accepted identifiers corresponding to other clients that are trusted by the client and are associated with at least one of the user identifiers;

deciding which of the other clients will be at least one notification recipient for a selected user identifier of the client;

transmitting the selected user identifier to the at least one identifier notification recipient;

accepting a request for a change notification of presence information of the selected user identifier from the at least one identifier notification recipient;

replacing, in a watcher list of the selected client, an old identifier of the selected client with a new identifier, and replacing identifiers of all watcher clients with at least one identifier notification recipient, and

storing a correlation of the selected user identifier and the accepted identifier of each of the at least one identifier notification recipient.